

Clean Copy of Amended Claims

21. (Twice Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 20, wherein the filter units are vertically mounted in the filter housing by a mechanism which comprises a hanger mounted in the cover, the hanger having a lower portion for extending downwardly in the filter housing and brackets at said lower portion connectable to an uppermost truncated cone for suspending the upper and lower filter unit in the filter housing.

22. (Twice Amended) A prefilter as claimed in claim 21, wherein the reception chamber of the lower filter unit is hermetically separated from the discharge chamber of the upper filter unit by a mechanism which comprises:

a restriction in the side wall of the filter housing separating the bottom portion and the top portion thereof; and

a watertight liner mounted at said restriction.

24. (Amended) A prefilter comprising:

-a filter housing having an inlet in a bottom portion thereof for receiving an inflow of liquid to be filtered and an outlet in a top portion thereof for discharging an outflow of filtered liquid;

-a lower filter unit located in the bottom portion of the housing, comprising:

-superposed and spaced-apart inclined lamellar structures having the shape of hollow truncated structures each having a lower end side opposite an upper end side;

-a passage for a flow of liquid between each two of said lamellar structures, each passage having an inlet for receiving an inflow of liquid to be filtered and an outlet for discharging an outflow of filtered liquid;

-filtering means in each of said passages for obstructing the flow of liquid and retaining particulate matter contained in the liquid; and

-a discharge chamber in fluid communication with the outlets of the lower filter unit, the discharge chamber being located in a centrally located zone of the lower filter unit;

-a reception chamber in the filter housing in fluid communication with the inlet of the housing and with the inlets of the lower filter unit, the liquid to be filtered entering the housing via the inlet thereof and flowing across the reception chamber to enter the inlets of the lower filter unit; and the filtered liquid discharged at the outlets of the lower filter unit flowing across the discharge chamber towards the outlet of the filter housing;

-an upper filter unit located in the top portion of the housing on top of the lower filter unit for further filtering liquid previously filtered in the lower filter unit, the upper filter unit comprising:

- superposed and spaced-apart truncated hollow structures similar in shape and size with the truncated structures of the lower filter unit and being in registry with the same, the upper filter unit having a lowermost truncated structure superposed on an uppermost truncated structure of the lower filter unit, the hollow truncated structures of the upper filter unit having an upper end side and a lower end side, and a centrally located zone on top of the centrally located zone of the lower filter unit;

- a passage for a flow of liquid between each two of said spaced-apart truncated structures having an inlet for receiving an inflow of liquid to be filtered and an outlet for discharging an outflow of filtered liquid; and

- filtering means in each of said passages for obstructing the flow of liquid and retaining particulate matter contained in the liquid;

- a reception chamber located in the centrally located zone thereof, the reception chamber being in fluid communication with the discharge chamber of the lower filter unit and with the inlet of each of the passages of the upper filter unit;

- a discharge chamber for the upper filter unit located in the top portion of the filter housing around said upper filter unit, the discharge chamber being in fluid communication with the outlet of each of the passages of the upper filter unit and with the outlet of the housing;

- wherein the reception chamber of the lower filter unit is hermetically separated from the discharge chamber of the upper filter unit; and
- wherein the filter units are vertically mounted in the filter housing.